



PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY of CANADA | AGENCE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE du CANADA 2

## Overview of Presentation

- Canada: a federal state
- Public Health in Canada
- Implications for the International Health Regulations (2005)
- Implementation Activities
- Challenges

## Canada: A Federal State

- Constitution Act 1867
  - **Federal powers**
    - Peace, order and good government
      - National emergencies
    - Criminal law
    - Quarantine and establishment and maintenance of marine hospitals

## System of Government

- Parliamentary Government
- Federal Government:
  - Legislative Branch
    - Queen represented by the Governor General (appointed)
    - House of Commons (elected)
    - Senate (appointed)
  - Executive Branch:
    - Prime Minister and Cabinet
      - Federal Departments and Agencies
  - Judiciary
    - Supreme Court of Canada
    - Federal Court
    - Provincial Courts
- Provincial Governments and Territories (13)
  - Legislative Branch
  - Executive Branch

## Federal public health authorities

- *Quarantine Act* (new 2006): travellers, conveyances, cadavers, body parts and other human remains **arriving in or departing from Canada**
- *Public Health Agency of Canada Act*: establishes the Public Health Agency of Canada; designates the Chief Public Health Officer as the lead health professional of the Government of Canada in relation to public health; authorizes the making of regulations respecting the collection, analysis, interpretation, publication and distribution of information relating to public health and the protection of that information.
- *Department of Health Act*: Potable water on conveyances, biosafety of human pathogens
- Criminal Law Power: regulation of drugs, medical devices, hazardous products,
- National Emergencies: *Emergencies Act*
- Interprovincial and international trade and commerce
- Spending power: grants and contributions relating to public health; health transfer payments to Provinces and Territories

## Provincial/Territorial powers

- Hospitals
- Property and Civil Rights
- Matters of Local or Private Nature
- Municipal Institutions

## Canadian Public Health Structures

- Public Health Agency of Canada
  - Infectious Disease and Emergency Preparedness Branch
  - Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Branch
  - Public Health Practice and Regional Operations Branch
  - Strategic Policy, Communications and Corporate Services Branch

## Provinces and Territories

- Ministries of Health
- Health legislation including public health
- Local or regional health authorities
  - Public health
  - Health promotion
  - Health care

## Pan Canadian Public Health Network

- The Public Health Network serves as a forum for multilateral intergovernmental collaboration on public health issues while respecting jurisdictional responsibilities in public health.
- Network Council
- Expert Working Groups
  - Communicable Disease Control
  - Canadian Public Health Laboratory
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response
  - Surveillance and Information
  - Non-Communicable Disease and Injury Prevention and Control
  - Health Promotion

## Canadian Entities Administering the International Health Regulations (2005)

- National IHR Focal Point
  - Public Health Agency of Canada
- Surveillance and Response
  - Local (municipal, regional)
  - Intermediate (provincial, territorial)
  - National (federal)
- Points of entry
  - Health Canada (Environmental Health Program)
  - Public Health Agency of Canada (Quarantine Program)
  - Competent authorities (municipal, regional or federal)

## Canadian Implementation Preparations/Activities

- National IHR Focal Point
  - Public Health Agency of Canada designated
  - Role and structure within Agency (targeted completion date: June 2007)
- Readiness assessment
  - Points of entry capacity (completed)
  - Surveillance and response capacity, structures, systems (targeted completion date: October, 2007)
  - F/P/T Memorandum of Agreement on Information Sharing
- Designating Points of Entry (targeted completion date: June, 2008)
- Engaging public health partners (targeted completion date: June, 2008)

## Canadian Implementation Preparations/Activities

- Formal capacity assessment: June 2009
- Quarantine Act Phase II: ??
- Strategy/plan to fill gaps: December 2008
- Full compliance: June, 2012

## Issues/Challenges

- Surveillance and Response
  - National Surveillance System
  - Reporting potential public health emergencies of international concern
    - Agreements, legislation or both?
- Points of entry
  - Jurisdiction
  - Authorities/capacity
- Emergency powers
  - Federal: Public health emergency vs. national emergency